

Labor Market Information Survey

More than 3,000 Kentucky businesses responded to the Workforce Development Cabinet's 2002 Labor Market Information Survey. Respondents identified positions for which they were most likely to have vacancies and the educational requirements and starting salaries for hard-to-fill positions. Representatives from the Workforce Development Cabinet share the results of this study with the Council.

In November 2002, the Workforce Development Cabinet released the final report from its Labor Market Information Survey (LMI), a comprehensive study of labor supply and demand in Kentucky. A consortium of researchers from the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville conducted the study. At the request of the Council staff, the Workforce Development Cabinet included a series of questions about educational attainment in the business survey portion of the study, yielding a rich source of information about the areas of greatest need identified by Kentucky employers.

Included in the LMI were:

- ?? A survey of 3,300 households designed to obtain information on underemployment.
- ?? A survey of 3,600 businesses designed to gather data on education levels, labor shortages, and benefits.
- ?? Survey results and local estimates are available to the public at: <http://kycwd.org/lmisurvey.htm>.

The LMI business survey asked employers to identify positions for which they had the greatest demand. Respondents indicated the number of vacancies, required educational levels, and annual salaries for hard-to-fill positions. Researchers combined survey results with census data to develop local estimates by workforce investment areas, area development districts, and counties.

The results of the LMI indicate that while the demand for low-skill workers in Kentucky remains high, the need for workers with a bachelor's degree exceeds the percentage of the population with the credential. Among the high-skill positions identified by employers, the demand for healthcare workers was particularly strong.

The Council staff plans to use the results from the LMI to inform future policy and program approval decisions. In Fall 2003 the Council will issue an RFP to provide funding for proposals that create partnerships between multiple postsecondary institutions and outside agencies responsible for workforce development, linking academic programs to workforce needs such as those identified in the LMI.

Representatives from the Workforce Development Cabinet and the University of Kentucky will present their findings at the Council meeting.